

Certification Name: Certified Professional Geological Scientist

Designation: CPG

04-Dec-97

Society

American Institute of Professional Geologists
7828 Vance Drive, Suite 103
Arvada, CO 80003-2124

Phone:

fax:

email:

Major Requirements

Education: BS

Years of Experience: 8

Examination Required: No

Continuing Education Required: No

Maintenance Required: No

Directorates

Environmental Health Engineering

Programs

Ground Water & Solid Waste

Certification Name: Registered Professional Geologist

Designation:

04-Dec-97

Society

American Institute of Professional Geologists
7828 Vance Drive, Suite 103
Arvada, CO 80003-2124

Phone:

fax:

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Major Requirements

Education: BS

Years of Experience: 0

Examination Required: No

Continuing Education Required: No

Maintenance Required: No

Directorates

Environmental Health Engineering

Programs

Ground Water & Solid Waste
Hazardous & Medical Waste Management

Geology, Geologists, and AIPG

Geology is the science that includes: (1) the study of the Earth's materials, (2) the study of the Earth's processes, and (3) the study of change through time.

Earth's materials include the minerals, rocks, liquids, and gases that form the Earth. Minerals are studied with respect to their physical characteristics, their chemical compositions, crystal structures, modes of formation, and distributions within the Earth. Rock properties studied include mineral compositions, textures, fabrics, distributions, and modes of occurrence. Liquids and gases are studied to determine their compositions, their origins, the geologic conditions that govern their migration, and interaction with their environments.

Earth's processes are responsible for development and change in the component parts of the Earth. These processes include such things as the work of wind, gravity and water: mechanical and chemical weathering, radioactive decay; sedimentation; diagenesis; metamorphism, volcanism; stress and strain; and earthquakes.

The study of change through time is the forte of geologists. Geologists discovered the existence of extreme time - Earth's history covers over 4.5 billion years. They are also the discoverers of the means by which materials and processes are ordered through time. Changes in life through time, changes in character of the Earth, its oceans, and its atmosphere are all encompassed by the science of geology.

The education of a geologist has some commonalities with that of other scientists and also with engineers. Geologists obtain their education within accredited colleges and universities. Most geologists now take courses in calculus, physics, computer science, statistics, chemistry, and biology. They also take a minimum of 36 semester credits of course work in geology geophysics, geochemistry, engineering geology, hydrology, mineralogy, and specialty fields such as petroleum geology. To specialize within a particular area of geology and to pursue further study in graduate school is common for geologists.

A "Professional Geologist," as defined by this Institute, is one who: (1) is a graduate of an accredited university and has completed coursework that satisfies the AIPG Bylaws, (2) has a minimum of five years of post-baccalaureate experience in the practice of geology as a vocation, and (3) has a sustained record of adherence to exemplary standards of professional and ethical conduct. The peer review process, through which verification of satisfactory experience, performance, and ethical conduct occurs, constitutes the certification process performed by AIPG. Members listed in this directory are persons who have passed this peer review process.

Despite the importance of geology, both geology and geologists are not well understood by the public. Few citizens are educated in geology or have been aware of its practical applications. AIPG strives to promote awareness of the importance of the profession of geology and contends that geological work provided to the public should be undertaken only by professional, qualified geologists.

AIPG Activities and Services to Members

The seal of AIPG carries the terms "competence," "integrity," and "ethics." It is these words that guide AIPG's major activities in certification, representation, information, and education. These, and other activities of AIPG, are supported through the dues and voluntary efforts of Members.

Certification

AIPG certifies the qualifications of professional geologists to the public. Through a process of peer review, the qualifications of applicant geologists are investigated, and their education, technical competence, performance, and ethical standards are evaluated. Applicants found to meet AIPG's standards are granted the designation, "CPG" (Certified Professional Geologist), and become Members. For the protection of the public and the profession, Members found guilty of violating the AIPG's Code of Ethics may be decertified and expelled from the Institute. The Institute assures the general public that its Certified Members have (1) a college degree with at least 36 hours of geology credit; (2) a minimum of five years' professional work experience; and (3) a sustained record of ethical conduct.

The Institute makes known the significance of certification and its CPG designation. AIPG makes available to its Members, at cost, insignia items such as membership certificates, wall plaques, stamps, seals, and other items bearing the Institute's logo.

Continuing Education

AIPG, at both the National and Section levels, provides a variety of continuing education programs and materials designed to enhance the scientific, technical, and professional knowledge of its Members.

To encourage and assure quality in continuing education opportunities offered by vendors of short courses, seminars, and workshops, AIPG administers a Continuing Education Accreditation Program.

Short Courses/Seminars/ Workshops

Short courses, seminars, and workshops on timely and appropriate scientific, technical, and professional topics, accredited by AIPG, are offered throughout the country. These provide unique educational opportunities for professional geologists to hear from knowledgeable experts on useful and interesting subjects. Participants gain valuable insights to problems and learn the latest on-the-job skills and techniques.

Section Meetings

Regular meetings held by the Institute's Sections include scientific and technical presentations as well as presentations on professional subjects. By their attendance, Members increase their knowledge, not only of their science, but also on the status of geology as a profession. Attendees have opportunities to make valuable personal contacts with fellow geologists and to learn from them.

Annual Meetings of the Institute

AIPG's annual meetings include outstanding educational presentations. Prominent speakers give attendees the latest information on developments in professional affairs; governmental legislation and regulation; the science of geology; professional techniques; scientific/technical information; and the outlook for the profession.

Information

AIPG disseminates information to its Members and to the public in a number of ways.

The Professional Geologist (TPG) Monthly Magazine

The Institute publishes its magazine, *The Professional Geologist* (TPG), monthly. TPG includes news of AIPG activities, as well as timely information on all aspects of the geologic profession. It is an important source of information on Institute programs and events; proposed federal and state legislation and regulations of concern to geologists; business

news; public attitudes and trends; on-the-job techniques; current research; and recent publications of interest.

Annual Membership Directory

Each year AIPG publishes a comprehensive membership directory which lists Members and Affiliates alphabetically, geographically, and by specialty. It gives names, mailing addresses, phone and fax numbers, employers, and geologic specialties. Thousands of copies of the directory are distributed to government, libraries, consulting firms, industries, and other potential purchasers of geologic services.

Monograph Series Booklets

The Institute periodically publishes monographs on pertinent subjects related to the profession and the practice of geology.

Issues and Answers Booklets

The Institute prepares and distributes a number of "Issues and Answers" publications defining the issues and providing the recommendations of professional geologists on current legislative/regulatory matters of public concern. These factual, well documented, unbiased publications are of great value to government at all levels (particularly congressional staff), as well as to the general public.

Headquarters Staff

For facts, data, and answers to many questions, members call AIPG Headquarters. The staff answers hundreds of requests for information each year.

Headquarters FAX Line and Electronic Mail

In order to facilitate communication with members, AIPG has FAX equipment at Headquarters. This may be found particularly useful for the transmittal of items for TPG, notices, and documents of immediate concern. The Headquarters FAX number is (303) 431-1332. The headquarters e-mail address is aipg@ix.netcom.com.

Lending Library

AIPG Headquarters has a modest library of videotapes and publications on all aspects of professional geology. Items are loaned to Members.

Representation

AIPG represents the interests of its Member geologists in relations with government, education, and the general public. The Institute promotes both its Members and the profession of geology, explains their value, and enhances their images.

Government - United States

AIPG arranges for expert testimony by Member geologists before legislative and regulatory government bodies at the federal, state, and local levels and at hearings in Washington and around the country. In lieu of personal testimony on complex legislative or regulatory proposals, AIPG prepares and submits written testimony which is carefully considered and entered into the record of government bodies.

The Institute's staff, Member representatives, and officers meet often with key elected and appointed officials for meaningful exchanges on governmental issues having geologic implications. Similar activities are undertaken at the state level, primarily by the appropriate Section.

Government - International

Through its developing links with corresponding professional societies in other countries, AIPG works to attain acceptance of its members for practice in those countries.

Cooperative Evaluation Program for Review of Undergraduate Geology Departments

To the benefit of the future of the profession, AIPG works closely with college and university earth science and geology department faculties, department heads, and deans on program and curriculum planning, proper career preparation of students, and necessary facilities and resources.

General Public

News releases are made to newspapers, magazines, and radio and television stations around the country about AIPG and its activities, as well as those of its Members. Institute publications are produced and distributed to the public to explain, in lay terms, complex current national issues with geologic implications.

Providing knowledgeable speakers to appear before meetings of various groups, societies, clubs, and professional organizations is another way AIPG works to represent its Members' interests in keeping the public properly informed on geologic matters.

What is AIPG?

The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG), founded in 1963, is the largest association dedicated to promoting geology as a profession. It presently has more than 5,000 members in the U.S. and abroad, organized into 37 regional Sections. The Institute adheres to the principles of professional responsibility and public service and is the only international organization that certifies the competence and ethical conduct of geological scientists in all branches of the science with members employed in industry, government, and academia.

AIPG is a nonprofit organization whose policies are determined by its Executive Committee.

AIPG Purposes

The purposes of the Institute shall include:

1. advance the geological sciences and the profession of geology;
2. establish qualifications for professional geologists;
3. certify the qualifications of specific individual Member geologists to the public;
4. promote high standards of ethical conduct among its Members and Adjuncts, and within the profession of geology; and
5. represent, and advocate for, the geological profession before government and the general public.

What AIPG does . . .

Professional Certification - Certifies geologists based on their Competence, Integrity, and Ethics. Classifications include Certified Professional Geologist, Retired, Honorary Emeritus Member, Affiliated Professional, Candidate for Certification, and Student.

Ombudsman - Intervenes with regulatory boards and agencies on behalf of individual geologists, at the geologist's request. Information also is disseminated in cooperation with the Association of State Boards of Geologists.

Lobbying - Presents testimony and position papers to Federal and State legislators and agencies on matters affecting geologists and geologists' employment opportunities. Exhibits at the National Conference of State Legislators.

Liability Insurance - Provides access to insurance for errors and omissions, designed specifically for geologists.

Continuing Education - Through publications, seminars, short courses, and field trips, provides educational opportunities for geologists, other scientists, engineers, and the general public. The American Institute of Professional Geologists, in cooperation with the Colorado School of Mines, presents the Management Development Program for Geologists and Related Professionals. This program is specifically structured for geologists and other scientific and engineering professionals.

Health, Life, and Accident Insurance - Provides access to a full line of health, life, and accident insurance.

International Comity - Through agreements with professional societies in other countries, provides access for its Members to professional registration, certification, or chartered status in those countries.

State and Section Activities - State and regional sections work on local political issues and the professional status of geologists in their geographic areas. The Institute's sections around the country hold regular meetings, featuring educational programs covering important subjects of interest to professional geologists. One of the most worthwhile benefits of AIPG Membership is the opportunity to make personal contact at the local and State level; to meet fellow geologists; and to learn from them.

Profession Certification

AIPG certifies professional geologists based on their competence, integrity and ethics. By means of a rigorous and thorough peer review process, the Institute investigates applicants who voluntarily apply for self-regulation through the Institute. This screening carefully evaluates their education, experience, technical competence, and ethical conduct.

Certified Professional Geologists

Applicants for certification have a bachelor's degree or higher in the geological sciences with a minimum of 36 semester hours of geology plus five years of professional geological work experience.

Candidate for Certification

Applicants for Candidate for Certification have a bachelor's degree or higher in the geological sciences with a minimum of 36 semester hours of geology and are engaged in the practice of geology but have not obtained five years of experience.

Student Affiliate

Applicants for Student Affiliate are students majoring in the geological sciences.

Retired Member

A member may be designated "Retired" upon request at the age of 60, provided that the Member is no longer actively engaged in the practice of geology for financial gain.

Reinstatement

Any person who has ceased to be a Member or Affiliate by suspension shall be eligible for reinstatement during the four calendar years immediately succeeding the calendar year of such suspension.

What Membership in AIPG Can Do For You In . . .

Consulting: An AIPG Member may be more successful in attaining state registrations or licenses. In some states, a registered/licensed or certified geologist must be included in a proposal responding to a state solicitation for geological services. Certification as a professional geologist demonstrates high-level professionalism to prospective clients.

Education: Many geologists who are teaching at colleges and universities do part-time consulting in their specialty areas. They benefit from membership through association with other practicing professionals, AIPG services and publications, and the Institute's promotion of professionals standards of conduct. Other geology teachers find membership in AIPG important in guiding and educating their students, many of whom will become practicing professional geologists. All geology teachers benefit from AIPG's activities that enhance the science and profession of geology.

Government: AIPG Members in government agencies can:

- Arrange for testimony by AIPG geologists before state, county, or local government bodies on proposed bills or regulations having geologic aspects.
- Prepare testimony or reports on legislation or regulations dealing with geologic topics for governmental agencies.
- Identify qualified geologists for specific assignments, assuring quality performance.

Industry: For over half a century major companies and major consulting firms have established entry level standards for geologists. AIPG documents similar requirements for its members, and also addresses the experience and enforces the ethical obligations of geologists. This is important to smaller companies without geological staff and even large companies and clients whose familiarity with geological problems is limited. Companies find AIPG Certification useful in evaluating the competence and integrity of geologists they seek to employ.

Additional Member Benefits

- Insurance Programs
- Continuing Education Opportunities
- Public Affairs and Lobbying Opportunities
- Strength in Numbers
- International Contacts

- Ombudsman
- Publishing Opportunities
- Credit Card Program
- Rental Car Discounts
- Discounted AIPG Publications
- Unique Insignia Items

Types of Membership and Requirements

CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST

EDUCATION: 36 semester or 54 quarter hours in geological sciences with a baccalaureate or higher degree; certified copy of official transcripts must be sent by each college or university

EXPERIENCE: 8 years beyond bachelor's degree, or 7 years beyond master's degree, or 5 years beyond doctorate

SPONSORS: 3 required from professional geologists, 2 of whom must be CPG's (see Section 2.3.1.4 of the Bylaws for exceptions)

CERTIFICATION/REGISTRATION: None required

SCREENING: Section and National

APPLICATION FEE: \$50 (to upgrade from Registered Member or Member to CPG, the fee is \$35)

ANNUAL DUES: \$85 plus Section dues; both prorated for remainder of year when accepted

REGISTERED MEMBER

EDUCATION: 30 semester or 45 quarter hours in geological sciences* with a baccalaureate or higher degree; certified copy of official transcripts are required for this application if they are not required by the state for registration/certification/licensure

EXPERIENCE: No proof required

SPONSORS: 2 required from professional geologists, one of whom must be a CPG, Registered Member or Member; sponsor letters in state registration application may serve as sponsor statements if approved by Executive Committee

CERTIFICATION/REGISTRATION:

Proof of current registration/licensure/ certification must be submitted with application and with annual renewals and must include expiration date

SCREENING: National

APPLICATION FEE: \$30

ANNUAL DUES: \$60 plus Section dues; both prorated for remainder of year when accepted

*As defined by the American Geological Institute, a geological science is any of the subdisciplinary specialties that are part of the science of geology, e.g., geophysics, geochemistry, paleontology, petrology, etc.

MEMBERS

EDUCATION: 30 semester or 45 quarter hours in geological sciences* with a baccalaureate or higher degree; certified copy of official transcripts must be sent by each college or university

EXPERIENCE: No proof required

SPONSORS: 2 required from professional geologists, one of whom must be a CPG, Registered Member or Member

CERTIFICATION/REGISTRATION: None required

SCREENING: Section and National

APPLICATION FEE: \$30

ANNUAL DUES: \$60 plus Section dues; both prorated for remainder of year when accepted

STUDENT

EDUCATION: Currently enrolled in a geological science* degree program

EXPERIENCE: None required

SPONSOR: 1 letter from geological science faculty member

CERTIFICATION/REGISTRATION: None required

SCREENING: Headquarters can approve

APPLICATION FEE: \$5

ANNUAL DUES: \$15

ASSOCIATE

EDUCATION: None required

EXPERIENCE: None required

SPONSORS: 1 CPG, Registered Member or Member

CERTIFICATION/REGISTRATION: None required

SCREENING: Headquarters can approve

APPLICATION FEE: \$5

ANNUAL DUES: \$50 plus Section dues; both prorated for remainder of year when accepted

Note to those who received their degrees from non-U.S./Canadian universities. If you received a degree from a university or college outside the U.S. or Canada, and the school is unable to provide an acceptable transcript, you must submit a copy of your diploma and a list of courses taken. The Screening Committee may ask you to provide additional information or an equivalency evaluation, at your expense.